

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE JOSEPH E. BERGERON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Joseph E. Bergeron of the San Mateo County Superior Court. The public admonishment concerns Judge Bergeron treating certain women at court inappropriately, despite having been warned by the court about his behavior, and thereby failing to maintain high standards of conduct, to act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the judiciary, and to be patient, dignified and courteous to those with whom he deals in an official capacity.

On one occasion, after asking a courtroom clerk if she played baseball, Judge Bergeron twice tossed a crumpled calendar at her, hitting her in the chest. On another occasion, the judge overreacted about a different clerk not returning a voicemail from the judge; he complained so loudly in chambers on the telephone to her supervisor that the clerk and others in the courtroom, but not jurors, could hear him. On another occasion, Judge Bergeron conveyed to a female deputy district attorney appearing before him that he would like her to bring him a cup of coffee. When the deputy district attorney attempted to convey the impropriety of his request, the judge made additional improper remarks (e.g. "If I had cash [or money], I'd give you a tip"). The commission took into account two prior private discipline determinations, in deciding to impose discipline.

The public admonishment is available on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions") and at the commission's office. Judge Bergeron is represented by attorneys Joseph P. McMonigle and David S. McMonigle of San Francisco.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers and six public members. The chairperson is Honorable Erica R. Yew of the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.